

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00463 120812Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 SMI-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4666

UNCLAS TOKYO 0463

DEPT. PASS TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, JA
SUBJECT: SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN PACIFIC

1. JAPANESE ARE EAGERLY AWAITING NEWS OF A NEW ISLAND EMERGING IN SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC AS RESULT OF SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY. FAIRLY STRONG SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY WAS CONFIRMED BY JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (MSA) IN AN AREA AROUND LATITUDE 23 DEGREES 30.4 MINUTES NORTH AND LONGITUDE 141 DEGREES 54.3 MINUTES EAST (ABOUT 100 KM SSE OF MINAMI-IWOJIMA ISLAND) WHERE MSA SURVEY TEAM OBSERVED DISCOLORING OF SEA WATER ON JANUARY 10. AT ABOUT SAME TIME, TWO JAPAN AIRLINES JETLINERS FLYING OVER THE AREA REPORTEDLY DETECTING BLIPS ON THEIR RADAR SCREEN WHICH THEY AScribe TO INCREASED VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA.

2. WHILE MSA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THESE PHENOMENA STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT A NEW ISLAND IS IN THE MAKING IN THE AREA AS RESULT OF SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY, PROF. KOSAKA OF TOKYO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, WHO ANALYZED COLOR PICTURES OF THE AREA AND OTHER RELATED DATA, SEES LITTLE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW ISLAND EMERGING. HE POINTS OUT THAT PRESENT STATE OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IN THE AREA HAS NOT REACHED THE STAGE OF ERUPTION. HE WAS CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIVITY IS OCCURRING ON A FAIRLY SHALLOW OCEAN BED (130-150 METERS DEEP) WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE TOP

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 00463 120812Z

OF A SUBMARINE VOLCANO ABOUT 2,500 METERS HIGH.

3. REPORTED SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTIVITY IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION OF ALL JAPANESE FROM ECONOMIC STANDPOINT. A NEW ISLAND, IF DISCOVERED, CLAIMED AND INHABITED BY JAPANESE, WILL

RESULT IN EXPANSION OF JAPAN'S FISHING ZONE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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